

**B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A computer-based method for administering financial instruments, comprising:

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program configured to establish a trust with trust units, each trust unit representing an interest in a bond having a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity security shares defining a share ratio; and

accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to ~~for~~ periodically:

(a) ~~computing~~ compute price of the trust units based on the share ratio for a period and current values of the bond and the one or more equity security shares;

(b) ~~determining~~ determine a predetermined threshold price based on a par value of the trust units at maturity;

(c) ~~comparing~~ compare the price of the trust units to the predetermined threshold price;

(d) ~~determining~~ determine a distribution to holders of the trust units based on the comparison, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

(e) ~~adjusting~~ adjust the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the distribution.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of equity security shares in the distribution is based on current share price and a difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined threshold price.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest ~~for reinvesting~~ distributions made to holders into new trust units.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest ~~for reinvesting~~ reinvest distributions made to holders into new trust units by combining distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in the database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to for-making make a final payment on or about the maturity date of the bond, the final payment comprising face value of the bond less administrative expenses.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein executing a processing

program loaded on a computer includes executing the processing program comprises a spreadsheet program loaded on the computer.

11. (currently amended) A computer-based system for administering financial instruments, comprising:

a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program including:

means for periodically computing price of trust units in a trust, each trust unit representing an interest in a bond having a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity shares defining a share ratio, the price of the trust units being based on the share ratio for a period and current values of the bond and the equity security shares;

means for comparing the computed price of the trust units to a predetermined threshold price;

means for determining a distribution to holders of the trust units based on the comparison, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

means for adjusting the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the distribution.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the means for comparing determines a difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined threshold price, and the means for determining a distribution distributes equity security shares, where the number of equity security shares in the distribution is

based on current share price and the difference.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the processing program comprises means for reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new trust units.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the processing program comprises means for reinvesting distributions made to holders into new trust units by combining distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

16-24 (canceled).

25. (currently amended) A computer-based method for administering financial instruments, comprising the steps of:

executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program configured to establish a trust with trust units, each unit representing an interest in a fixed-income security that has a maturity date and one or more equity security shares, the one or more equity security shares defining a share ratio; and

accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to periodically:

~~computing~~ compute price of the trust units based on the share ratio for a period, current values of the fixed-income security and the one or more equity security shares;

~~comparing~~ compare the computed price of the unit to a predetermined number, wherein the predetermined number is based on a par value of the trust at maturity;

~~determining~~ determine a distribution to holders of the trust units based on the comparison, the distribution including cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the equity security shares of the trust units and performance payments that are paid in equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and ~~adjusting~~ adjust the share ratio of the units to reflect the distribution.

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A computer-based method, comprising the steps of:  
executing a processing program loaded on a computer, the processing program receiving a selection of an equity security based on expectations for long-term capital appreciation and a selection of a long-term bond issue having a fixed maturity date and a predetermined face value and creating a trust having units, each unit representing an interest in a selected long-term bond issue and a predetermined number of shares of a selected equity security, the number of shares of the selected equity security defining a share ratio, the trust being associated with an account administrator having access to information about the trust and about customer accounts indicating ownership interest in the units; and

accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to ~~for~~ periodically:

~~determining~~ determine a current value of the units using current market information about the selected long-term bond and the selected equity security;

~~determining~~ determine payments to customer accounts based on a difference

between the current value and a predetermined number, wherein the predetermined number is based on a par value of the trust at maturity and the payments include cash payments that are paid in cash and based on share dividends of the shares of the selected equity security of the unit and performance payments that are paid in a number of equity security shares and based on underlying asset appreciation; and

~~adjusting~~ adjust the share ratio of the units to reflect the payments.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the equity security is selected from among large-cap stocks.

30. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the long-term bond issue is a U.S. Treasury STRIP.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein a term for the long-term bond issue is between 20 and 30 years.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein determining the value of units is based on a quarterly period.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the performance payments include a number of equity security shares based on current share price and a difference between the computed price of the unit and the predetermined threshold number.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 33 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to adjust ~~for adjusting~~ the share ratio of the

units to reflect an excess number of distributed shares.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest ~~for reinvesting~~ distributions made to unit holders into new units.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 35 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to reinvest ~~for reinvesting~~ distributions made to unit holders into new trust units by combining equity security distribution shares with a single bond into a trust unit having an adjusted share ratio.

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising accessing, via one of the computer and a second computer, information stored in a database to enable the one of the computer and a second computer to make ~~for making~~ a final payment on or about the maturity date of the bond, the final payment comprising a face value of the bond less administrative expenses.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein creating a trust includes developing a spreadsheet with entries corresponding to units and customer accounts.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39 further including accessing a database accessible by the account administrator for storing information about the units and

the customer accounts.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ comparing the price of the trust units to the predetermined threshold price comprises determining a price difference between the computed price of the trust units unit and the predetermined threshold price and wherein:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, ~~the amount of the~~ distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, ~~the amount of the~~ distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.

42. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the means for comparing determines a price difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined threshold price and wherein:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and
- (ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.

43. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 25, wherein comparing the computed price of the unit to a predetermined number determines a price difference between the computed price of the trust units and the predetermined number and where:

- (i) if the price difference is more than a minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the price difference; and



(ii) if the price difference is less than the minimum value, the distribution is equal in value to the minimum value.

44. (currently amended) The method ~~system~~ of claim 28, wherein:

(i) if the difference between the current value of the units and the predetermined number is less than zero, each payment is equal to a minimum amount;

(ii) if the difference between the current value of the units and the predetermined number is more than zero, each payment includes an excess value payment equal in value to the difference in value; and

(iii) if the difference between the current value of the units and the predetermined number is more than zero and less than a minimum amount, each payment includes a supplemental value payment equal to the difference between the minimum amount and the excess value payment.